GUIDE TO THE AC7 OKINAWA FILE

[The AC7 Okinawa file contains specific data on Okinawa and its inhabitants, including Ie, Iheya, Izena, the Kerema group and other lessor offshore islands. Okinawa is the largest and most populous island in the Ryukyu Archipelago. It lies southwest of Japan and northeast of Formosa between the East China Sea and the Pacific Ocean. In 1970, the island had a population of 839,787. Until 1879, Okinawa was a semi-independent kingdom with its own royal house. However, at various points in history, both China and Japan claimed suzerainty over the kingdom and exacted tribute. From 1609 until the 1870s, the kindgom was under the control of the Lord of Satsuma (Japan). In 1879, Japan formally annexed Okinawa and made it a prefecture. Under the Japanese, a program was instituted to make Okinawans into Japanese nationals and to suppress native culture. This was largely accomplished through the institution of a national school system which indoctrinated children with Japanese language and culture. Japanese is now the official language of Okinawa; however, Okinawan is still used, especially in rural communities, in family and everyday life. Okinawan is a dialect of Ryukyuan which constitutes a sister language to Japanese in the Ryukyuan-Japanese language family.

Until World War II, Okinawans derived most of their livelihood from agriculture, growing mainly rice, sugar cane, sweet potatoes, and soybeans. However, following World War II, Okinawa was placed under American administration and a good deal of land was appropriated for American bases. 3: Pitts et al. estimated that in mid-1950 more that 25% of the total Okinawan labor force was employed on military bases or in subsidiary occupations.

The family is the basic social, economic and ceremonial unit. Each family belongs to larger kin groups, lineages and sibs, which consist of households whose heads are related through the male line. The continuity of the family is maintained over time through the practice of ancestor worship which is still an important part of Okinawan life.

There are three sources in the Okinawa file, all based on fieldwork carried out after World War II. Sources 1: Glacken and 3: Pitts et al. were the products of research sponsered by the SIRI (Scientific Investigations in the Ryukyu Islands) program. The objective of the program was to gather information which would assist the post-war authorities in administering the islands. 1: Glacken is a study, by a geographer, of three Okinawan villages which were selected to represent the three main types of village economies -- agriculture, fishing-stonecutting, and forestry. The author focuses on the relationship between man and the natural environment and on family systems. However, there is comprehensive coverage of other cultural aspects. 3: Pitts et al. examines pre- and post- war culture patterns in order to evaluate the impact of the American occupation on native culture. It was prepared by two ethnologists and a geographer. 2: Maretzki and Maretzki is a study of child rearing practices in an Okinawan village. It was carried out as part of Whiting's six-culture study which was designed to explore, cross-culturally, the relationship between different patterns of child rearing and subsequent differences in personality. The first section of the source consists of a general description of the culture. This serves as background data for the second section which consists of a chronological account of child training from pregnancy to preadolescence.

The following are marking decisions for the entire file:

Ryukyus and Okinawa AC7

	Category
Social Structure -	
honke/ bunke - mainhouse/ branch house as a system -	613
for description of households -	594, 596
munchu (ichimung) - patrilineal sib among the peasants -	614
uji - patrilineal sib among the gentry -	614
chuchooree (hito-kyodai) - a lineage -	613
Religious Organization -	
nuru (noro) - priestess -	793
yuta - shaman -	756
ekisha (sanjinsoo) - diviner -	791

kaminchu - religious functionary who leads worship - 794
for a kin group or assists the nuru

mannasaa - person who uses magical spells in curing - 791

Yabuu - medical practitioner using Chinese methods - 759

mabui - a kind of soul
ichi-mabui - soul of a living person 774
shini-mabui - a type of ghost 775

shii - supernatural force within a person - 778

shiji - a sort of supernatural power - 778

manna - spell, formula - 788

ugwanju - shrine, place of worship 778

mogusa (moxa) - medical treatment, moxicautery - 757

juri - hostess, singer, dancer, and prostitute - 548

ryotei - restaurant-brothel - 265 or 548

Womens' Association and Young People's Association - 575

yago (yaanaa) - house name (name given a "lineage") - 613

jiwari seido - land redistribution - 423

ward warden, clerk - 624

moai - mutual loan association - 452

This file was processed between 1962 and 1975.]